



**YORK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**1460 ALEXANDER LOVE HIGHWAY**  
**YORK, SC 29745 803-684-3137, FAX 803-628-0069**

*Volume 6, Issue 3*

*July, 2008*

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**You can receive this newsletter via email and help**

**save a tree! Contact our office at 803-684-3137 or**

**email [judy.brown@sc.nacdn.net](mailto:judy.brown@sc.nacdn.net) to subscribe.**

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**Check out these websites:**

**[www.yorkcountygov.com](http://www.yorkcountygov.com) for aerial photos of any location in York Co.; [soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov](http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov) for soils information in all of SC; <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.gov>; [soils.usda.gov](http://soils.usda.gov) for all of U. S.**

\*\*\*\*\*

\* Conservation is not enough. \*

\* The thing that is missing is \*

\* love, some feeling for, as \*

\* well an understanding of, the \*

\* inclusive community of rocks \*

\* and soils, plants and ani- \*

\* mals, of which we are a part. \*

\* Joseph Wood Krutch \*

\* The whole land is made \*

\* desolate, because no man \*

\* layeth it to heart. Jeremiah \*

\* 12:11 \*

\*\*\*\*\*

***Americans like to build their homes adjacent to public lands.*** The influence of these rapidly developing land uses on forest ecosystems is a cause of growing concern. Here are some of the reasons: Wildlife on public lands can be at heightened risk associated with increased housing development. Invasive plants find new points of entry onto public lands through developments. Invasive plants aggressively compete with and replace native plants. The potential for destructive wildland fires is much higher. Development along riparian areas often leads to damage to watershed functions downstream from the development activity. Dense housing with paved surfaces generate intense runoff and water pollution. Illegal private road building, timber theft and user-created off-highway-vehicle trails occur. The Forest Service is reaching out to local communities to better coordinate development and prevent some of the worst problems before they occur.

**Future Museum of life and the Environment in Fort Mill—a Link to the Catawba River**

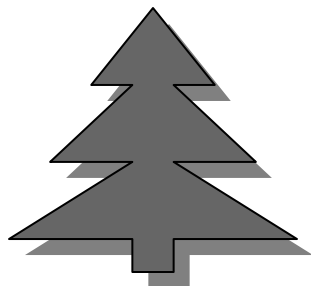
Imagine a mile-long river walk, people jogging, biking, kayaking. Picture hands-on museum activities, fish weirs, gardens, aquariums, live animals and a planetarium. There will be indoor and outdoor components, including a restaurant. There will also be a riverside welcome center along the Carolina Thread Trail.

The mixed-use residential and commercial development adjacent to the museum will be different from other Fort Mill neighborhoods in that it will be built with "green" certification with the concept of sustainability. The museum site was home to events that took place during the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War. It was also home to pioneer homesteads, and an 18th century Catawba Indian village.

## Programs—2007-2008 School Year

### FOURTH GRADE FORESTERS

#### ARBOR DAY



205 trees were purchased and distributed by YSWCD in December for Fourth Graders in Rock Hill

### EARTH DAY



1,000 adults and children received materials in the Fort Mill and Rock Hill Earth Day celebrations.

### POSTER CONTEST

This year we reintroduced our poster program with the theme: Alternative Energy Sources. We celebrated the winner with an ice cream party!



Teacher's Soil and Water Science Workshop held at the York Co. Museum with the topic: Soil and Water Science. Fifteen attendees!



Many classrooms have "Smart Boards" which has allowed YSWCD to create and present PowerPoints accompanying the written materials for each topic. Great visual aid!



### CAROLINA COASTAL AND COMMISSIONER'S SCHOOL

Carolina Coastal Adventure provided opportunity for over 70 high school students to spend a fun weekend on the coast while learning about SC Natural Resources.

Two York County students attended.

Commissioner's School 2008 was a week at Clemson University to learn about the diverse industries of agriculture and natural resources.

Two York County students attended.

All Sponsored by YSWCD

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

YSWCD offers programs to classrooms in a variety of topics related to our Natural Resources: Soil, Water, Plants, Animals, and Air.



755 students K-Grade 7 in York, Rock Hill and Fort Mill classrooms were included this school year.

## 2007-2008 WHAT A GREAT YEAR!

### WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM—WHIP

provided financial incentives to develop habitat for fish and wildlife on private lands. Such practices as prescribed burning, native cover management, tree planting, timber stand improvement, site prep, and natural regeneration were included. York County has no landowners qualified for this program at this time.

### ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM—EQIP

provided incentive payments for up to 50% cost sharing for conservation practices such as no-till, erosion control structures, field borders, pasture and hay land practices, and animal waste facilities. Ongoing for the past 5 years, there are over 6,000 acres enrolled in the EQIP program in York County.



**Filter Fabric**

2725 ft. sold in 2007



### SERVICES OFFERED BY YSWCD DURING 2007-2008



#### Rain Barrels and Composters

23 rainbarrels

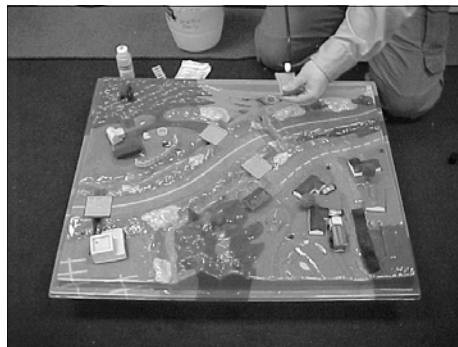
4 composters

#### Rental of No-Till Drills

883.8 acres in 2007



### PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY YSWCD DURING 2007-2008



**EDUCATIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS  
WATERSHED MODEL**



**FISHING CREEK/ALLISON  
CREEK WATER QUALITY  
AND DAM IMPROVEMENT  
GRANT 319-Continuing**

**YSWCD wishes to extend a BIG THANKS to  
our 2007-2008 Affiliate Members**

**We are looking forward to serving you in  
2008-2009!!!**

## Agriculture's No-Till Revolution by David R. Montgomery *Excerpted from Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*

Ever since the first organized harvests, the plow has become the symbol of agriculture. However, plowing the soil leaves the surface vulnerable to erosion. Plowing with a conventional plow also pushes soil directly downslope. No-till agriculture provides a way to potentially resolve this problem by shielding the ground surface beneath vegetation. Instead of burying crop residue deep in the soil where it rapidly decays, no-till practices leave crop residue at the ground surface where it acts as mulch, helping to retain moisture and retard erosion. Unlike conventional plowing, no-till farmers minimize disturbance of the soil by using a chisel plow to poke seeds down through crop stubble. *Conservation tillage has been remarkably effective at reducing soil erosion.* But the rapid rise in the popularity of no-till agriculture is not simply due to less erosion. No-till methods have also been adopted because of economic benefits to farmers. The Food Security Acts required farmers to adopt soil conservation plans based on conservation tillage for highly erodible land as a condition for participating in USDA programs. But conservation tillage has proven to be so cost effective that it also is being widely adopted on less erodible fields. On modern farms, less plowing means less consumption of expensive fuels, and *no-till methods can cut fuel use by more than half.* In addition, the soil better retains nitrogen and organic matter, thereby reducing the need for fertilizer. The savings from not plowing and lower fertilizer use can more than offset income lost to initially reduced crop yields, translating into higher profits. No-till practices also increase soil quality. No-till agriculture has another major attraction: it could provide one of the few simple, profitable ways to help with Climate Change. When soil is plowed and exposed to the atmosphere, oxidation of organic matter releases carbon dioxide gas. *In most settings, long-term tillage has reduced soil organic carbon levels by more than 50%.* Worldwide, one-third of the total carbon dioxide buildup in the atmosphere since the industrial revolution has come from degradation of soil organic matter. No-till farming can reverse this process by stirring crop residues back into the soil surface gradually increasing soil organic matter and as much as tripling soil carbon content in less than 15 years. Note: YSWCD offers a rental program for no-till drills. Please contact our office for further information.



Helping People Help the Land  
By Lakeisha Hill, District Conservationist



The Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS) strives to *Help People Help the Land*. This is done primarily through technical assistance which often times can be accompanied by cost-share through one of our conservation programs. Please understand that cost-share simply means just that, cost- *share*. It is not a grant. NRCS helps to share the cost of installing or implementing conservation practices which help to preserve and protect our natural resources. However the landowner, producer or farmer incurs the cost initially. Upon completion of an agreed to conservation practice that meets NRCS standards and specifications, cost-share is awarded based on an amount determined at the time of establishment of the contract. If a practice is not completed to our standards and specifications, cost-share will not be awarded until the practice is corrected.

Two of our most known conservation programs in South Carolina are the **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program** (WHIP) and the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program** (EQIP). The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Through WHIP, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. It supports production agriculture and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, farmers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land. In 2007-2008, an additional 163 acres were enrolled in EQIP. Over the past 5 years, nearly 6,000 acres have been enrolled in the EQIP Program and almost 1,000 acres in the WHIP program in York County. Additional information about these two programs can be found online at <http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>. Also you may call our office at 803-684-3137 X 3 and ask to speak with LaKeisha or Jessie.

## MEET YOUR YORK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS!

### Bennie Copeland, Treasurer



Bennie is a native of South Carolina and resides in Rock Hill. He has been married to wife Debbie for 38 years. He graduated from Clemson University in 1974 with a Bachelors Degree in Industrial Education and joined MetLife in 1984. He is a member of Eastview Baptist Church and was a USN Reservist CPO for 24 years.

Bennie is a Financial Services Representative/MetDesk Specialist who offers securities products and investment advisory services. He also provides educational workshops to address critical areas of concern for children with special needs. MetLife's Division of Estate Planning for Special Kids was created to serve families that have children of all ages with disabilities.

Bennie has also been involved in SHRM, Lynchwood Masonic Lodge #197 PM, HEJAZ Shrine Temple, American Legion and is a Life Member of the VFW. He has served as a commissioner for the York Soil and Water Conservation District since 1999.

### York Soil & Water Cons. Dist. and Affiliates—Partners in Conservation

Please return with your tax-deductible donation. Make all donations payable to: **York Soil & Water Conservation District** and mail or deliver to: 1460 East Alexander Love Highway, York, SC 29745.

### AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP FORM 2008

CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ AFFILIATE MEMBER

(\$35 to \$49.99)

\_\_\_\_\_ CONSERVATIONIST

(\$100 to \$249.99)

\_\_\_\_\_ SOIL & WATER PROTECTOR

(\$50 to \$99.99)

\_\_\_\_\_ GUARDIAN

(\$250 to \$999.99)

\_\_\_\_\_ STEWARD OF THE LAND

(\$ 1,000 and Above)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! ! !**

**YSWCD expresses a BIG THANK YOU to our 2008 Affiliate Members!!**

**GUARDIAN**

Rogers Grading, Inc.,  
Jule Rogers

Farmers Service Center Inc.  
Lewis W. Hicks



**SOIL & WATER PROTECTORS**

Circle E Farm, Evelyn and Wesley  
Edmunds

Rock Hill Coca-Cola Bottling Co.,  
Richard Houk

**CONSERVATIONIST**

Duke Energy, Rick Jiran  
Tumble T Bar T, Ted Bartee

**STEWARD OF THE LAND**

SC Department of Natural  
Resources

York County Council

**PICTURE YOUR BUSINESS NAME  
HERE! PLEASE CONSIDER  
JOINING OUR 2008 AFFILIATE  
MEMBER ROSTER TODAY!**

**Board Meetings**

The York Soil and Water Conservation District Board meets on a monthly basis to deal with conservation issues within York County. The public, as well as cooperating agencies, is invited to attend District meetings and provide input. A meeting notice is posted at the USDA Service Center. Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Noon meetings are also planned on occasion. The actual meetings are held at the USDA Service Center, 1460 East Alexander Love Highway, York, SC 29745.

**If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please contact our office at  
803-684-3137 ext. 3, or email [judy.brown@sc.nacdnet.net](mailto:judy.brown@sc.nacdnet.net).**

*All programs and services of the Conservation District, USDA-NRCS, and the SC DNR, Division of Land, Water and Conservation are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.*

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